Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know if any idea can be given as to when this line is to be commenced ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have not received any report from the Railways as to when they are going to commence, but the Railway administration are very anxious to commence this line with the co-operation of Government."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Is the cost to be included in the Mettur project estimate, or is it a different question altogether ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The cost of this railway will be in the railway budget. It will not be in the Mettur project. The survey of the project has been completed."

Assignment of Lands

Payment of site value for getting darkhast lands.

* 115 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that members of the depressed classes are required to pay site value for getting on darkhast, valuable lands outside town limits ;

(*b*) whether any complaints have been received by the Government that the members of the depressed classes of South Kanara are too poor to take up land paying site value ;

(*c*) whether there is any provision to exempt them from payment of the site value, and who exercises that power now ; and

(*d*) whether Government have any objection to delegate the power to the Collectors of the districts in order to facilitate the assignments and, if so, what is the objection ?

A.—(*a*) Assignment of valuable land to members of the depressed classes is ordinarily on payment of the estimated market value which may be collected in easy instalments.

(*b*) No complaints have been received.

(*c*) Yes ; the power to make free grants vests in the Government.

(*d*) The Government do not consider it desirable to delegate to the Collectors of districts the power to dispose of valuable lands otherwise than on the payment of the full value for them.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Collectors are empowered to grant valuable lands within town limits free of site value ? "

The hon Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—" Though the power of exemption is vested in the Government, is it not that it is generally based on the proposals of the Collector and in view of this, will the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision and delegate to the Collectors this power of exemption ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" As far as I can catch the question, the answer seems to be in clause (*d*)."